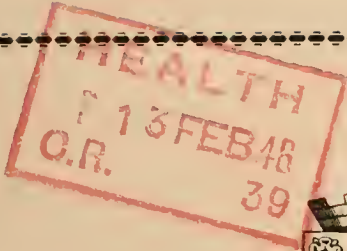


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BOROUGH OF MOSSLEY.

.....

HEALTH DEPARTMENT.

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The  
ANNUAL REPORTS  
of  
The Medical Officer of Health  
and of  
The Sanitary Inspector  
For 1944.



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The Sanitary Inspector  
For 1944.

CLIFFORD WHITTAKER, PRINTER, MOSSLEY.



# ANNUAL REPORT

of the

## Medical Officer of Health, 1944

---

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE HEALTH,  
SEWAGE AND MARKET COMMITTEE.

GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour of presenting to you my sixteenth Annual Report.

### **1.—STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.**

Area (acres), 3,624. Population, Census 1931, 12,042. Estimated resident population (middle 1944), 9,555.

Number of inhabited houses :—

(a) Census, 1931, 3,519.

(b) End of 1944, according to Rate books, 3,551.

Rateable value, £44,812. Sum represented by a penny rate, £174.9012.

The district is almost entirely an industrial one, and the chief industries are those of cotton and woollen manufacturing, and wool combing. There is also a wire works, which has grown considerably in the last few years, and also one small foundry. There are also in the town a number of small industries engaged in munition work of various kinds. None of these industries is injurious to health.

## VITAL STATISTICS.

		Total	M.	F.	
Live Births	{ Legitimate	169	98	71	
	{ Illegitimate	13	12	1	Birth Rate per 1,000
	{ Total	182	110	72	of the estimated resi- dent population 19.0

Stillbirths ... 11 6 5 Rate per 1,000 total  
(live and still) Births 56

Deaths ... 143 72 71 Death Rate per 1,000  
estimated population  
14.9

Adjusted death rate, 00.0 ; (Comparative factor, 00.0).

Deaths from Puerperal Causes :—

	Deaths	Death Rate per 1,000 Total (live and still) births.
Puerperal and post- abortive sepsis ...	Nil	Nil
Other maternal causes	Nil	Nil
Total ...	Nil	Nil

Death Rate of Infants under one year of age :—

All infants per 1,000 live births ...	43
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	47
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	Nil
Deaths from Cancer (all ages) ...	20
„ „ Measles (all ages) ...	Nil
„ „ Whooping Cough (all ages) ...	Nil
„ „ Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age) ...	Nil

# RATES PER 1000 OF ESTIMATED POPULATION.

## Population.

Estimated mid-year population, 9,555.	Per 1,000 of estimated population				Maternal Mortality Rate		
	Live Birth Rate.	Crude Death Rate.	Death Rate from Tuberculosis of Respiratory System.	Death Rate from Cancer.	Per 1,000 Live Births.	Per 1,000 Total (Live and Still) Births.	Rate of Deaths under One Year per 1,000 Live Births.
<i>Mean of 5 years</i>							
1939-43...	14.0	16.1	0.37	1.99	2.71	2.58	53
Year 1943...	17.6	13.1	0.21	1.99	5.95	5.71	53
Year 1944...	19.0	14.9	0.41	2.09	Nil	Nil	43
<i>Increase or decrease in 1944 on 5 years' average</i>							
1939-43 ...	+5.0	-1.2	+0.04	+0.10	-2.71	-2.58	-10
<i>Previous yr.</i>	+1.4	+1.8	+0.20	+0.10	-5.95	-5.71	-10
1944 Adjusted Death Rate (comparability factor) — per 1,000							

## 2.—CAUSES OF DEATHS IN MOSSLEY.

					Males	Females
1.	All Causes ...	...	...	...	42	51
2.	Measles ...	...	...	...	0	0
3.	Scarlet Fever ...	...	...	...	0	0
4.	Whooping Cough ...	...	...	...	0	0
5.	Diphtheria ...	...	...	...	0	0
6.	Influenza ...	...	...	...	2	1
7.	Encephalitis Lethargica ...	...	...	...	0	0
8.	Cerebrospinal Fever ...	...	...	...	0	0
9.	Tuberculosis of Respiratory System				2	1
10.	Other Tuberculosis Diseases ...				0	0

11.	Syphilis	...	...	...	...	0	...	0
12.	General Paralysis of the Insane,							
	Tabes Dorsalis	...	...	...	...	0	...	0
13.	Cancer, Malignant Disease	...	...	...	...	5	...	6
14.	Diabetes	...	...	...	...	0	...	3
15.	Cerebral Haemorrhage	...	...	...	...	2	...	5
16.	Heart Disease	...	...	...	...	8	...	7
17.	Aneurysm	...	...	...	...	1	...	0
18.	Other Circulatory Diseases	...	...	...	...	5	...	4
19.	Bronchitis	...	...	...	...	4	...	2
20.	Pneumonia (all forms)	...	...	...	...	4	...	2
21.	Other Respiratory Diseases	...	...	...	...	0	...	0
22.	Peptic Ulcer	...	...	...	...	0	...	0
23.	Diarrhoea, etc. (under 2 years)	...	...	...	...	0	...	0
24.	Appendicitis	...	...	...	...	0	...	0
25.	Cirrhosis of the Liver	...	...	...	...	0	...	0
26.	Other Diseases of the Liver	...	...	...	...	0	...	0
27.	Other Digestive Diseases	...	...	...	...	0	...	1
28.	Acute and Chronic Nephritis	...	...	...	...	3	...	2
29.	Puerperal Sepsis	...	...	...	...	0	...	0
30.	Other Puerperal Causes	...	...	...	...	0	...	0
31.	Congenital Debility, Premature							
	Births, Malformations	...	...	...	...	1	...	0
32.	Senility	...	...	...	...	5	...	16
33.	Suicide	...	...	...	...	0	...	0
34.	Other Violence	...	...	...	...	0	...	0
35.	Other Defined Diseases	...	...	...	...	0	...	0
36.	Causes Ill-defined or Unknown	...	...	...	...	0	...	1



#### 4.—NOTIFIABLE DISEASES.

##### CASES NOTIFIED.

Diseases	Total under 1 yr. yrs. 2-3 3-4 4-5 5-10 10-15 15-20 20-35 35-45 45-65 65 & over														Total deaths	removed belonging to this District		
	all ages	0	1	2	3	4	5	yrs.	yrs.	yrs.	yrs.	yrs.	yrs.	yrs.	yrs.	yrs.	Hospital	District
Smallpox	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	0	0
Diphtheria and Membranous Croup	...	23	1	—	1	—	—	—	13	4	—	3	1	—	—	—	0	21
Erysipelas	...	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	0	0
Scarlet Fever	...	5	—	—	—	—	—	1	3	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	0	1
Whooping Cough	...	10	1	2	1	2	3	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	0	0
Measles	...	8	1	2	—	3	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	0	0
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	...	0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	0	0
Acute Primary Pneumonia...	...	7	—	—	1	—	—	2	1	—	—	—	1	2	—	—	0	0
Acute Influenzal Pneumonia	...	0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	0	0
Enteric Fever	...	0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	0	0
Puerperal Pyrexia	...	0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	0	0
Puerperal Fever	...	0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	0	0
Encephalitis Lethargica	...	0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	0	0
Totals	...	55	3	4	3	5	4	21	6	0	4	3	2	0	0	0	22	0

Diphtheria Immunisation :—The number of cases fully immunised in 1944 was 256.

Ambulance Services :—There are two motor ambulances which provide the necessary service in the Town. A mutual aid Agreement has been in force with the neighbouring Boroughs for a number of years and has worked satisfactorily.

Pathological Examinations :—During recent years there has been increasing demands for such examinations, and arrangements are in force for such work to be done at the District Infirmary, Ashton-under-Lyne, and the Public Health Department, York Place, Manchester.

## TUBERCULOSIS.

(1) The notification of Tuberculosis in the area is efficient.

### NEW CASES AND MORTALITY DURING 1944.

Age Periods	New Cases				Deaths			
	Pulmonary		Non- Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non- Pulmonary	
Years	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0-1 ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1-5 ...	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
5-10 ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
10-15 ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15-20 ...	2	1	1	—	—	—	—	—
20-25 ...	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
25-35 ...	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
35-45 ...	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
45-55 ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
55-65 ...	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
65 and upward...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals ...	4	2	1	1	2	1	—	—

### PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF.

Medical Officer of Health (Part time),

LEONARD WHITE, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.

HAROLD B. BELL, A.R.SAN.I., M.I.S.A.,  
*Sanitary Inspector.*

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient servant,

LEONARD WHITE,

*Medical Officer of Health.*

# ANNUAL REPORT

of the

## Sanitary Inspector.

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TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE HEALTH,  
SEWAGE AND MARKET COMMITTEE.

GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to submit my Report for the year 1944.

### **DRAINAGE.**

No new houses have been connected to the public sewers during the year. Private drain connections are examined prior to filling in, and all connections to the public sewers are made by the Corporation, or by the Contractors under the supervision of the Corporation.

### **INFECTIOUS DISEASES, DISINFESTATION, ETC.**

Twenty-seven houses and 297 articles of clothing and bedding have been disinfected after cases of infection. In total, 74 rooms were dealt with. In 10 cases disinfections were carried out after deaths from non-infectious diseases. In addition 14 blankets, 10 palliasses have also been disinfected. The whole of one school was sprayed and fumigated after a child, in attendance at the school, had been removed to the Hyde Isolation Hospital, suffering from diphtheria. The rest centres were thoroughly sprayed each day during the period that they were occupied by the Evacuees. Eleven privately owned houses, involving 38 rooms have been disinfested, after complaints of vermin. The methods employed were to spray the houses thoroughly with "Vermicine,"

and to follow this up with formalin fumigator lamps, which were allowed to burn for a period of six hours. This work was carried out by the local authority at the expense of the owners concerned. Rooms occupied by persons suffering from tuberculosis are disinfected in cases where the patients are removed to sanatoria and in cases which terminate fatally. Householders frequently desire to have beds and bedding treated at the disinfecting station upon the fatal termination of an illness which is not notifiable under the Infectious Diseases Notification Acts. In cases where the doctor in attendance or the Medical Officer of Health considers such treatment desirable, the work is done free of charge. In other cases a charge is made towards the cost incurred. Disinfection of bedding, etc., is carried out at the Corporation Depot, Scout. The apparatus consists of an Alliot & Paton's Patent High Pressure Steam Disinfector. All Day Schools are sprayed with disinfectant once per week during the term time. Householders who reside within the district are supplied with disinfectant for domestic use free of charge on application at the Town Hall. A man is in attendance on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons and Saturday mornings. The distribution of disinfectants free of charge requires to be strictly supervised, otherwise waste and misuse occur. Disinfectants should not be used in an attempt to disinfect drains and get rid of a foul odour which, on investigation, may be found to be due to some defect in the system ; nor as substitutes for soap and water, fresh air, and sunlight.

### **SCAVENGING AND DISPOSAL OF REFUSE.**

There are approximately 180 dry ashpits and 2,806 galvanized iron ashbins in use within the Borough. They are emptied each week and the contents removed to the Corporation tip at Scout Depot. The whole of the household refuse is collected by the Karrier "Bantam" Refuse Collectors. Approximately 1,700 loads of household refuse are dealt with per annum, equivalent to about 45 tons per week. No charge is at present made to shopkeepers for the removal and disposal of trade refuse. There is still approximately 20-25 per cent. of the refuse stored in fixed ashpits. The amount of refuse handled per week is increasing. The increased use of the gas and electrical appliances for cooking and heating makes it difficult for the housewife to burn

combustible refuse, especially in the summer time. The number of galvanized iron ashbins has increased by 6. The land available for tipping at the Corporation depot is practically exhausted, and the land purchased at Little Mill for this purpose at the moment contains a stock of approximately 4,000 tons of Government coal. In addition at Little Mill there are 13 Allotments in use. Because of these facts there is only a small portion of this land available for tipping. There are approximately 2,747 pail closets, 911 fresh water flush closets and 145 waste water closets. The pails are emptied once per week, cleaned and disinfected. The contents are mixed with a suitable absorbent and disposed of as a fertiliser.

### SALVAGE.

The salvage of waste materials has proceeded satisfactorily during the year and returns a reasonable profit. The following table gives the weights and the values of waste materials sold during 1944.

<i>Materials.</i>	T.	C.	Q.	Lbs.	£	s.	d.
Baled waste paper ...	56	13	2	0	348	5	8
Mixed iron (heavy) ...	3	9	1	0	9	10	5
Light iron ...	1	2	1	0	2	4	6
Lead ...	0	1	1	7	1	2	4
Aluminium ...	0	0	2	0	1	12	8
Copper ...	0	0	0	11	0	4	0
Old rags (mixed) ...	1	7	2	12	16	9	6
Old carpets and sacking	4	8	3	14	12	6	6
String ...	0	11	1	5	3	7	4
Household bones ...	0	14	3	0	1	16	10
Mixed rubber ...	0	7	1	0	0	17	2
Mixed bottles ...	1	13	0	0	3	14	3
Kitchen waste ...	66	15	1	0	105	2	6
Total ...	137	4	3	21	£506	13	8

## **COMMON LODGING HOUSES.**

There is now only one Common Lodging House within the Borough. This is situated in Mill Street. The condition is fair and several improvements have been carried out after interviews with the owner. The premises at Upper Mossley, which were formerly used as a Common Lodging House were closed in 1943 after legal proceedings had been taken.

## **NUISANCES.**

One hundred and thirty informal and eight statutory notices have been served. One hundred and nineteen nuisances have been abated. In addition many defects and nuisances have been attended to by owners as a result of personal interviews. In the majority of cases owners of property maintain their houses in a reasonable state of repair. I regret to say that there are always some owners and agents of property who fail to carry out the most necessary work unless and until pressure has been brought to bear by the officials of the Health Department. There is also a class of tenant who fails to maintain the premises he occupies in a reasonable state of cleanliness. Several nuisances of this type have been abated.

## **FACTORIES ACT, 1937**

Several notices have been received during the year to deal with sanitary provisions, etc., under this Act. These notices have been passed on to the firms concerned and have received their attention. Notices have been received from the Factory Inspector, at various times, notifying change of occupier, etc.

## **SLAUGHTER-HOUSES AND TRIPE-BOILING WORKS.**

There are two licensed slaughter-houses within the district and two tripe-boiling establishments. All the above are periodically inspected. It has not been necessary to take any proceedings for infringement of the Bye-laws or Regulations.

## **MEAT INSPECTION AND MEAT REGULATIONS.**

Owing to the fact that the meat is now obtained from Oldham, there is no slaughtering within the district.



The Medical Officer of Health and the Sanitary Inspector are the officials duly authorised by the Council to administer the Meat Regulations.

Twelve men hold licences to slaughter animals under the Slaughter of Animals Act, 1933.

### **BAKEHOUSES.**

There are 29 bakehouses within the Borough. Most of these are on a small scale, the occupiers baking for their own retail trade. Limewashing has been carried out when necessary, the general condition and cleanliness are good, and no offences have been detected from this source.

### **DAIRIES, COWSHEDS, AND MILK-SHOPS.**

There are 17 farms, 31 cowsheds, and 17 cowkeepers within the Borough. The cowkeepers retail the milk which they produce and are registered as cowkeepers and purveyors. There are 17 purveyors of milk who reside outside the Borough and retail milk within this district. They are all registered. Three milk-shops, one retail dairy and five wholesale producers of milk are also registered. All farm premises are regularly inspected, in order to ensure compliance with the Milk and Dairies (Consolidation) Act, 1915, the Milk and Dairies (Amendment) Act, 1922, and the Milk and Dairies Order, 1926.

One supplementary licence, authorising the use of the special designation "Accredited," has been issued under the Milk (Special Designations) Order, 1936, to a farmer who resides outside the Borough but who sells milk within the Borough. In addition, a supplementary licence, authorising the use of the special designation "Pasteurised" has been issued to the United Co-operative Dairies Limited, Fails-worth. Bottled milk is also sold from shop premises. All persons handling this product have been registered as "wholesale purveyors of milk" or "retail purveyors of milk" as the case may be.

There are on the register 19 retail purveyors and six wholesale purveyors of bottled milk.

## CONTAGIOUS DISEASES (ANIMALS) ACT.

The issuing of movement licences and inspections arising out of the movements of animals under licence are dealt with by the Police who, when necessary, call in on behalf of the Mossley Corporation a qualified veterinary surgeon for examination of contacts of notifiable disease.

## SMOKE ABATEMENT.

In the case of excessive black smoke, factories are visited and are found to be willing to co-operate with the Local Authority in order to prevent this nuisance.

In the case of one factory in particular immediate action was taken by the firm on receipt of a letter from the Health Department, with the result that the black smoke nuisance was abated.

Domestic Chimneys. The Police normally deal with the question of excessive smoke from a domestic chimney.

## SEWAGE WORKS.

The Inspectors of the Lancashire Rivers Board have visited the works on several occasions. The effluent has been variable in quality, and on most occasions has been classed "bad" when analysed.

The readings registered by the Flow Recording Apparatus are taken daily. These readings, together with rainfall readings obtained from the Waterworks Engineer, are forwarded to Mr. Waters, our Consulting Engineer, monthly.

The question of dealing with the trade waste of the Mossley Woolcombing & Spinning Co Ltd. is still under consideration.

## HOUSING.

### (a) Statistics.

Number of new houses erected during the year :—

(a) Total (including numbers given separately under (b) ... ..	0
(1) By the local authority ... ..	0
(2) By other local authorities ... ..	0
(3) By other bodies or persons ... ..	0



(b) With State assistance under the Housing Acts :—

(1) By the local authority (included under (a)	
(1) above) ... ..	0
(2) By other bodies (included under (a) (3)	
above)... ..	0

1. Inspection of dwelling-houses during the year :—

(1) (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) ... ..	187
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose ... ..	390
(2) (a) Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 and 1932	0
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose ... ..	0
(3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation ... ..	0
(4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation ... ..	135

2. Remedy of defects during the year without service of formal notices :—

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the local authority or their officers ... ..	120
--	-----

3. Action under statutory powers during the year :—

(a) Proceedings under sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—	
(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs ... ..	0
(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :—	
(a) By owners ... ..	0
(b) By local authority in default of owners ... ..	0

## (b) Proceedings under Public Health Acts :—

(1)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied ... ..	8
(2)	Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :—	
(a)	By owners ... ..	8
(b)	By local authority in default of owners ... ..	0

## (c) Proceedings under sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—

(1)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made ...	0
(2)	Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders ...	0

## (d) Proceedings under section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—

(1)	Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made... ..	0
(2)	Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit ...	0

## 4. Housing Act, 1936. Part IV.—Overcrowding :—

(a)	(1)	Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year ... ..	3
	(2)	Number of families dwelling therein ...	4
	(3)	Number of persons dwelling therein ...	20
(b)		Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year ... ..	0
(c)	(1)	Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year ... ..	0
	(2)	Number of persons concerned in such cases ... ..	0

(b) **Housing Conditions.**

1. General observations as to housing conditions, including the standard of houses, the prevalent types, age and approximate numbers and general soundness of the several types—any information as to prevailing forms of defects and of prevailing bad conditions resulting from overcrowding :—

The standard is not high. The prevailing type consists of living-room, scullery and two bedrooms, with no bath or W.C. A common defect is dampness due to stone-flagged floors and lack of d.p.c. There are no bad conditions resulting from overcrowding.

Approximate number of back-to-back houses  
in the district ... .. 50

2. Sufficiency of supply of houses :—

- (a) Extent of shortage (if any).

There is not an excessive shortage if one considers the number of inhabited houses and the present population, but there is a considerable demand for houses of a better type.

- (b) Particulars of any housing scheme in hand or contemplated.

Plans have been submitted to the Ministry for 54 Permanent houses and 10 Temporary bungalows to be erected in the first post-war year.

- (c) Information as to any important changes in population during the period under review or anticipated in the future.

Population slowly decreasing.

- (d) Any special difficulties in the way of providing suitable sites for new houses.

Generally speaking sites are rather difficult to find owing to the fact that Mossley is a very hilly district.

## 3. Overcrowding :

- (a) Number of cases of overcrowding in houses owned by the local authority which have been relieved during 1944.

None.

- (b) Number of cases of overcrowding which have been relieved in the course of slum clearance operations.

None.

- (c) Particulars of any cases in which dwelling-houses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding.

None.

- (d) Any other particulars with respect to overcrowding, e.g., causes ; how far it is due to inability to pay the rents of available houses, etc.

None.

## 4. Fitness of houses :

- (a) Difficulties found in action under the Public Health Acts or under the Housing Acts.

None.

- (b) No. of houses which have not an adequate internal water supply.

Practically none.

- (c) No. of houses which have no separate water closet or other adequate sanitary accommodation.

None.

## 5. Action taken during the year regarding :

Clearance Areas :—

No. of areas represented Nil comprising Nil houses.

No. of areas cleared Nil comprising Nil houses.

No. of new houses built to re-house displaced tenants. Nil.

Improvement Areas :—

No. of areas represented Nil comprising Nil houses.

No. of houses demolished Nil. No. of tenants displaced Nil.

No. of new houses built to re-house displaced tenants. Nil.

**PETROLEUM ACTS AND EXPLOSIVES.**

No breaches of the regulations have been found. Nineteen licences have been renewed for the storage of a maximum aggregate quantity of 18,850 gallons of petroleum spirit.

One licence for the storage of mixed explosives was renewed during the year.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

HAROLD B. BELL, A.R.San.I., M.S.I.A.

*Sanitary Inspector.*



